

SOUTHERN SLAVS

VISIT OF RUSSIAN MILITARY ATTACHE

PROVISIONAL NATURALISATION PAPERS

Yesterday a most important development occurred regarding the position of the Southern Slavs on the goldfields, who have been prevented from securing work on the mines for the past couple of months owing to the decision of the Federated Miners' Union in refusing to work with "enemy subjects." For some time the Slavonians connected with the Boulder Croatian-Slavonic Society have been in direct communication with the Russian Consul-General in Melbourne, under whose protection—by proclamation of the Czar of Russia—all Southern Slavs were brought after the outbreak of the European war. As an outcome of these negotiations, the Russian Military Attache at Melbourne (J. Serennikoff), accompanied by the Consul for Western

... by the Consul for Victoria
Australia (Pierre Michelides), arrived at Boulder yesterday. They were met by the president of the society and other officials and taken to the hall in Moran-street, where every member was in attendance.

About three months ago full particulars of every member in the society, numbering approximately 120, were forwarded to the Melbourne office. Each man, to prove himself a member of the Slav race—either Croatian, Dalmatian, or any other province under the rule of Austria—had to produce his passport from any of those countries, his birth certificate, or any other document, proving to the satisfaction of the Russian Consul that he belonged to the Slav families, and all those, as previously mentioned, were forwarded from Boulder to Melbourne.

Yesterday, each man was called into the presence of the Consul separately, and, after further questioning, was handed the following provisional certificate of naturalisation:—